

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



19 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, on Wednesday 18 March 2020, the government instructed all schools in England to close on the afternoon of Friday 20 March until further notice. No date has been suggested as to when this will change.

I realise that this is both worrying and unsettling news for our Academy community and will cause anxiety for parents, pupils and staff alike. However, I would like to reassure everyone that our staff have been preparing for this announcement and have put in place measures to support our pupils learning at home over the coming weeks. We will also endeavour to continue to ensure that this support remains in place.

Over the course of today and tomorrow, the Senior Leadership Team at the Academy will put in place a plan identifying how we can best support our most vulnerable pupils and those pupils whose parents are key workers in the capital. These workers are likely to include medical, nursing, paramedic and ambulance staff; delivery drivers; workers in adult social care; social workers; teachers; healthcare assistants; administrators in GP surgeries and clinics; certified childminders; nursery staff; fire and police officers and the other groups of children who have been identified to us. These pupils will continue to receive an education provision from Monday 23 March 2020. **Key workers who can make alternative childcare arrangements with non-key workers will be expected to do so. If you would like your child to attend the provision the Academy will need to see identification to confirm their eligibility. Please email the Academy at info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk with a photo of your work ID or visit reception by 1.00pm Friday 20 March 2020. Parents **MUST** not just send their children to the Academy without receiving confirmation that their child is eligible. Please note: a definitive list of key workers will be confirmed by the government on Friday 20 March 2020.**

Staff at the Academy can be contacted at any time throughout this period of uncertainty and if you need support or are experiencing hardship please email info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk and staff will do their best to help or assist in any way we can.

For the children of confirmed key workers, the following will apply:

- The building will be open from 8.15am for pupils to receive a breakfast and lunch will also be provided every day -there will be no charge.
- Pupils will be dismissed at 3.00pm
- Pupils may attend in their own clothes if they wish however secondary pupils must wear their lanyards at all times for the purpose of identification
- All pupils should bring clothes/trainers to enable them to take part in PE activities

You will also be aware of the extremely upsetting news that our hardworking Year 11 pupils will not have the opportunity to shine as GCSE examinations have been cancelled. The government says it will work with schools to ensure pupils get the qualifications that they need. As more details are released we will be doing everything we can to help pupils understand what it means for them. Ms Heywood, Assistant Headteacher CHE@stmatthewacademy.co.uk and Mr Young, Deputy Headteacher, AYO@stmatthewacademy.co.uk will be available for pupils via email at if they need to contact her during the closure period.

 : 0208 853 6250  : info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk  : www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk  : @stmattacad

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Successful, confident learners High expectations, outstanding achievements Inclusive, caring, Catholic community Nurturing talent, cultivating ambition Excellence for all

Our teachers have organised a variety of home learning tasks for your child to complete in line with the planned curriculum which can be accessed via the link below. Tasks will be updated frequently so please do continue to check the website: <https://www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk/home-learning>

Pupils have been reissued with their email addresses and passwords checked today at school. Please check that your child is able to log in this evening. If they have any difficulties with accessing the log in, or a password has been forgotten, please email your child's full name and tutor group to passwordreset@stmatthewacademy.co.uk. Please do that this evening or as soon as possible, tomorrow. You should also contact us if your child does not have access to the internet at home so that we can make alternative arrangements for home learning. Please do this either by calling Main Reception or by emailing info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk

Please continue to follow the advice issued by Public Health England in relation to the coronavirus and ensure that your child is fully briefed on their responsibilities related to this. Any pupils who are showing symptoms of either a new persistent cough or a temperature should stay at home. The new guidance currently states that they should self-isolate along with all members of their household.

This information can be found at the following link and you should check this advice on a daily basis for further updates: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

I would like to thank all the staff at St Matthew Academy for working hard during this unprecedented time. Some are not here physically but they continue to work hard for our children from home.

We will continue to send updates to you all and would like to thank you all for the support and patience you have shown. I hope we can continue to work together to support the whole Academy community.

Yours faithfully



Ms M Baldwin
Headteacher